

STATEMENT
ON
CHINESE IMMIGRATION,
MADE TO THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,
MAY 17, 1886

BY THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

HON. JOHN S. WALKER,

President Legislative Assembly.

MR. PRESIDENT :—

On the sixth instant I was requested by resolution of Honorable Member for Lahaina to state to the House “whether the present regulations for Chinese coming into the country have been carried out since they were promulgated and whether any more than the prescribed number have come in at any time.” To this I made an immediate reply stating at the same time that the Departmental Report which I was, as Minister of Foreign Affairs about to present to the Legislature would supply still further information on the subject. As I promised still more precise information to dispel any misapprehensions as to the exact bearing of the Regulations controlling Chinese Immigration I now present to the House a short history of the action of the Government in this matter.

The Cabinet Resolution under the authority of which the Regulations have been issued was passed on the 13th of July 1883 and runs as follows:

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RESOLUTION PASSED IN CABINET COUNCIL, JULY
13TH, 1883.

“RESOLVED, that the Minister of Foreign Affairs be authorized to notify the Government of China and the authorities of the British Colony of Hong Kong that limited Chinese immigration will be permitted to enter this Kingdom under regulations issued from the Foreign Office.”

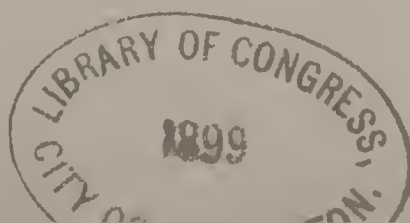
Under this permission was at first granted to certain steamship companies to bring in not more than 600 passengers during any three months. This number was calculated to replace the Chinese leaving here from time to time. The permission was not properly used by the companies to whom it was granted. After an interval of many months during which very few Chinese arrived, the whole 2,400 allowed for one year were brought to Honolulu in rapid succession in the Spring of 1884. The United States Government also raised the objection that the permission being only given to these Companies was a contravention of the Treaty of 1850. To meet the emergency the Regulations of March 1884 were made, and the system of passports was introduced. These Regulations are as follows:

REGULATIONS OF MARCH 25TH, 1884.

No. 1. From this date permission will be granted to masters of vessels arriving at the port of Honolulu to land Chinese immigrant laborers, not exceeding twenty-five in all from any one vessel, that number to be in addition to, and exclusive of any Chinese passengers who may hold passports as provided for in Regulation No. 2.

No. 2. Passports enabling their holders to enter the ports of the Kingdom may be issued from the Foreign Office, Honolulu, or by His Majesty's Consul-General at Hong Kong:

1.—To any Chinese resident in this Kingdom who may



desire to visit any foreign country, and return therefrom;

2.—To the wives or other female relatives, and to the children of Chinese now residing in the Kingdom, or who may be about to emigrate to this country under the provisions of Regulation No. 1.

No. 3. A fee of One Dollar shall be charged for each passport issued in pursuance of the foregoing regulation.

No. 4. All orders and instructions regulating Chinese Immigration to this country, heretofore issued from this Office, are hereby cancelled.

WALTER M. GIBSON,

Minister of Foreign Affairs.

FOREIGN OFFICE, Honolulu, March 25, 1884.

His Majesty's Consul-General at Hong Kong had in September 1883 received authority to issue passports to "persons of reputable character who have personally resided in these Islands, and to their wives and other members of their families who may be travelling under their care." As many Chinese had left here intending to return before the Regulation of March 25th was issued, the Consul-General was allowed to issue passports to such persons on their presenting to him the outward passports obtained by them from the Custom House when leaving the Kingdom. When the Regulation became known there was a rush of Chinese to return to the country and altogether nearly 1200 persons obtained passports at Hong Kong. The system being evidently abused by transfers of passports on which a check seemed to be almost impossible the Consul-General was in July last instructed not to accept Custom House passports any longer as evidence that the holders had resided here before.

In September the new Regulations were issued, depriving laborers of the right to receive permits to return, and restricting the Consuls from giving passports to any but women and children. These Regulations are as follows:

REGULATIONS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 1885.

By virtue of the authority conferred upon me by a Resolution of His Majesty in Cabinet Council passed on the 13th day of July, 1883, I hereby make and proclaim the following Regulations for the admission of Chinese passengers entering this Kingdom:

No. 1. From this date no vessel coming from a foreign country will be allowed to land more than twenty-five (25) Chinese passengers at any port in the Hawaiian Kingdom, unless the passengers in excess of that number are provided with passports entitling them to enter the Kingdom.

No. 2. Passports entitling the holders to return to the Kingdom will be granted at the Foreign Office, Honolulu, to all persons of Chinese nationality now resident, or who may hereafter become resident, on these Islands, who may desire to visit any foreign country, provided always that such persons have been engaged in trade or have conducted some industrial enterprise during at least one year of their residence here. No return passports will be given to Chinese laborers leaving the country.

No. 3. Passports will be granted at the Foreign Office, Honolulu; also by His Majesty's Consul General at Hong Kong, His Majesty's Consul at Shanghai, and His Majesty's Consul General at San Francisco, to any Chinese women desiring to come to the Islands, and to Chinese children whose parents are residing in the Kingdom, or who may not be of more than ten years of age.

No. 4. Passports entitling the holder to enter the Kingdom will also be granted at the Foreign Office to such persons of Chinese nationality as the Minister of Foreign Affairs may deem it proper to admit to the Kingdom.

No. 5. The fee for any passport issued under this regulation shall be two dollars (\$2).

No. 6. The holders of passports issued under these regulations must have the same indorsed with the visa of the Consular representative of this Kingdom at any port at which he may embark on his return journey, and also at

any port at which he may stay more than twenty-four hours during such return journey.

No. 7. The fee for the Consul's visa of each passport shall be one dollar.

No. 8. All orders and instructions regulating the incoming of Chinese into this Kingdom heretofore made and proclaimed are hereby rescinded, but nothing herein contained shall affect the validity of any passport issued at Hongkong before the proclamation there of these Regulations.

WALTER M. GIBSON,

Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Foreign Office, Honolulu, Sept. 1, 1885.

In February last the right hitherto given to introduce 25 Chinese passengers in any vessel without passports was cancelled by the following Amended Regulation:

REGULATION OF FEBRUARY 13, 1886.

By virtue of the authority conferred upon me by a Resolution of His Majesty, in Cabinet Council, passed on the 13th day of July, A. D. 1883, I hereby make and proclaim the following Regulation in regard to the admission of Chinese passengers into this Kingdom, viz:

From and after the first day of April, 1886, no Chinese passenger shall be allowed to land at any port in the Hawaiian Kingdom unless such passenger be the bearer of a passport, in due form and legally issued to him or her under the provisions of the Regulations made and published by me on the first day of September, A. D. 1885, "for the control of Chinese Immigration;" and the provision in Regulation Number 1 of the aforesaid Regulations which allows the landing of not more than twenty-five Chinese passengers from any one vessel at any port in the Hawaiian Kingdom without passports, is hereby rescinded.

Given under my hand and the Seal of the Hawaiian Kingdom, this eleventh day of February, A. D. 1886.

L. S.

WALTER M. GIBSON,

Minister of Foreign Affairs. Honolulu.

The Chinese who have come to this country since the Regulations of March 25, 1884, were proclaimed in Hong-kong and Canton, have all been admitted in strict accordance with the above Regulations, with the exception of those to whom passports were granted under the special Regulation referred to in my Departmental Report, (see page 11 of the Report, and page cxxiii of the Appendix). The arrivals, as closely as can be ascertained from June 1, 1884, to April 30, 1886, have been as follows:

Chinese holding return passports.....	1110
Chinese holding passports from the Consul General at Hongkong.....	1147
Chinese admitted last spring for Planters under Special Regulation.....	874
Chinese admitted under the Regulation which allowed any vessel to bring in twenty-five without passports.	1274
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Total for fifty-six ships.....	4405

The steamship Rio de Janeiro, on her late arrival here, was the last vessel having the right to bring any Chinese passengers without passports. The passengers by the Zealandia and Gaelic all had passports with them, except Mr. Yop Too, a member of the Honolulu firm of Yung Yick Chong & Co., whose premises were destroyed in the recent fire and who, on hearing of the disaster, was obliged to take passage on the first steamer, relying very properly on receiving a passport from me under Regulation No. 4, which was framed to meet such exceptional cases as his.

WALTER M. GIBSON,

Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Foreign Office May 15, 1886.